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whether they shall be able wholly to accomplish the object they have in view, much depends on the assistance they may receive from the public.

[*Monthly Magazine.*]

A patent Metallic Life Boat, on pneumatic and hydrostatic principles, that will neither sink nor overset, yet serve all the ordinary purposes of ships' boats, either for rowing or sailing, was tried lately near London-bridge. It was the ebb tide, during the time of the greatest fall, and she had her crew on board, and was filled with water. She passed through with the greatest safety, and discharged a considerable portion of the water which had been purposely put into her. This Life-boat is made of malleable iron, lead, and tin, twenty feet long, and six feet wide, and draws only ten inches of water, with twenty-five persons. They possess valves, that without pumping, or personal aid, discharge all the water from them, which valves act occasionally as pneumatic, or air valves; they are hydrostatically ballasted with confined water, taken in or put out at pleasure; and are remarkably buoyant and lively in agitated water. It is the invention of Mr. Dodd, the engineer.

[*Monthly Magazine.*]

*Oxy-muriatic acid used to guard against infection of close air, and marsh miasmata.*

Messrs. Thenard and Cluzel being sent to Flushing to direct the means of health, they ordered earthen vessels to be placed in the apartments for the soldiers, as well as those where prisoners were confined; these were filled with oxy-muriatic acid, greatly diluted with water, and they obliged every man employed on the fortifications to dip his hands into

one of the vessels every morning before he went out to his work. They placed similar vessels in the ditches of stinking mud, so that, from these and the fumigations employed, the workmen were immersed day and night in an atmosphere of oxy-muriatic acid, and preserved their health. It further appears, that many of the prisoners infected with the itch soon experienced the good effects of this immersion of their hands in diluted oxy-muriatic acid. One who had the disease all over him in an inveterate degree, and that had resisted every application, requested permission to wet rags in the bowls, and rub his body with them, and by so doing was perfectly cured in a few days.

[*Monthly Magazine.*]

#### REAPING MACHINE.

THE Committee of the Dalkeith Farming Club, and a numerous concourse of spectators, lately assembled at the farm of Smeaton, near Dalkeith, to witness the competition for the premium of £500, offered by the Club to any inventor of a reaping machine, capable of cutting down two acres of corn in the period of 5 hours, with one or two horses, and two men. Several competitors were expected, but only one appeared, Mr. Smith, of the Deanstoun works, near Dome, Perthshire, who exhibited a machine of great elegance and simplicity, impelled by one horse moving behind, while the action of the axle puts in rapid motion, at the opposite end of the machine, a drum, with a circular cutter affixed to it. By the movement of the drum, the cut grain is laid in a row, and the machine is so constructed, that the drum can, at pleasure, revolve towards the one or the other side, so as both are going and returning along the ridge, to throw the grain towards the open side of the